

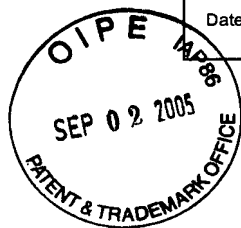
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: August 30, 2005

Signature: Michael J. Doherty

(Michael J. Doherty)

3732
EW



Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-2153 CIP DIV
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Yuan et al.

Application No.: 10/091,708

Group Art Unit: 3732

Filed: March 6, 2002

Examiner: M. B. Priddy

For: DEVICE FOR SECURING SPINAL RODS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed June 1, 2005, setting forth a Restriction Requirement in the above-identified application. In the Office Action, the Examiner required Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits from the following:

- I. Figures 1, 3, 4, 6A-6D (Screw Combination).
- II. Figure 1 (Hook Combination).
- III. Figures 7-10.
- IV. Figures 11, 12A, 13, 14A-14C (Screw Combination).
- V. Figures 11, 15, 16 (Hook Combination).

In response to the election of species requirement, Applicants elect Species IV, Figures 11, 12A, 13, 14A-14C (Screw Combination), with claims 1-6, 9, 11-18, 20, 22, 24-26, 29, 32-35, 37, 39 and 69-71 being readable thereon.

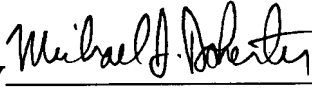
Application No.: 10/091,708

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-2153 CIP DIV

In the event any fee is due in connection with the present response, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicants' Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: August 30, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Michael J. Doherty

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